

Application No.: 10/016,797
Amendment dated: January 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

a.) Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An electrostatically driven optical membrane, comprising:
 - a support structure;
 - a membrane structure separated from the support structure by an electrostatic cavity; and
 - a tab on the membrane structure that increases a rigidity of the membrane structure to deflection after a predetermined amount of deflection;
wherein the tab comprises a cantilevered portion that engages the membrane structure after deflection.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) An electrostatically driven optical membrane, comprising:
 - a support structure;
 - a membrane structure separated from the support structure by an electrostatic cavity; and
 - a tab on the membrane structure that increases a rigidity of the membrane structure to deflection after a predetermined amount of deflection;~~An optical membrane as claimed in claim 1;~~ wherein the membrane structure comprises a tether connecting a membrane body to an outer portion.
4. (original) An optical membrane as claimed in claim 3, wherein a base of the tab is connected to the tether.
5. (original) An optical membrane as claimed in claim 3, wherein a base of the tab is connected to the outer portion.

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6. (original) An optical membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein a base of the tab is connected to the membrane structure.

7. (currently amended) An electrostatically driven optical membrane comprising:

a support structure;

a membrane structure separated from the support structure by an electrostatic cavity; and

a tab on the membrane structure that increases a rigidity of the membrane structure to deflection after a predetermined amount of deflection;

~~An optical membrane as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the tab extends radially on the membrane structure.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)